

File Budget

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

April 15, 1986

**MATT SNYDER, NEBRASKA
WINNER 1985/86 VFW VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**

HON. VIRGINIA SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1986

Mrs. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the winning entry in the Nebraska Voice of Democracy contest, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary.

The author is Matthew Snyder of Broken Bow, NE, and I am extremely proud of his inspirational thoughts about the future of America. I hope my colleagues will find his essay of interest.

NEW HORIZONS FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH

We stand right at the mid-point of the decade. In only fifteen years we will be welcoming a new millennium—the year 2000. As we look toward that horizon—toward the twenty-first century—we realize that it is today's American youth who will determine our nation's course.

How will we do? It is appropriate and timely for us to begin now, preparing for the challenges America and our generation will face.

First, let me backtrack a little to consider how earlier generations of Americans prepared themselves for the coming of a new century. From our nation's very birth, Americans have accepted challenges which seemed to threaten our future. As we approached the nineteenth century, colonial farmers and merchants, trappers and bookkeepers, formed hometown militias and risked their lives in battle against those who would deny basic human rights in this new land.

Midway through that century, Americans again were called to take up arms to preserve the unity of our young country, and our nation came out of this internal struggle a freer and stronger country.

Barely into the twentieth century Americans were called to battle twice, joining free forces all over the world—forces determined that mankind would not be ruled by fascist tyrants. Once again we proved to ourselves and to others, that America was strong and more than willing to protect that invaluable freedom with the strength that is America.

I think it is appropriate, as we consider the new millennium on our horizon, that we remember the lessons of yesterday—that they might guide us tomorrow. Consider, for a moment, one of those lessons as described by an American poet, Douglas Mallach, in the first stanza of this poem. He creates an imagery which seems very appropriate here.

The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light;
That stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king.

But lived and died a shrubby thing.

Facing challenges with optimism and courage has become an American tradition—a tradition we must carry with us into the twenty-first century. If we see a better life on the horizon, we must not be blind to the challenges which lie between us and that dream.

We know that if we are to conquer disease, we must begin our preparation today. If our horizon holds dreams of energy independence, it is today's graduates who will have to find new ways to tap new deposits of oil and coal below the earth's surface. If the very spirit of America is to serve us well

into the new era, we must accept the challenge of instilling American values in the next generation.

America is rich in resources—resources beyond minerals and food, beyond medical advances and education. And we are at this moment at the brink of discovering and developing that which I am convinced is our greatest resource of all, our generosity and pride of nation.

It is a unique opportunity for America's youth to lead this exploration and development. And when today's youth reach those horizons which they explored and then developed, they can say.

America fought.

And America will be that forest king.

When we meet those horizons we have set, we must not stop. We must expand them. We must not only find way to reach below the earth's surface, but we must put our energy resources to work to keep America the industrial giant of the world. We must not only prepare to conquer disease, but we must continue to improve the quality of life. We should not stop at instilling American values in the next generation, but must live so that each new generation has cause to be proud of their country. And after we have expanded and passed those horizons we set, we can say with pride in our voice,

America grew,

America is the forest king,

And America will never die a shrubby thing.

**FEDERAL FIREARMS LAW
REFORM ACT OF 1986**

SPEECH OF

HON. ARLAN STANGELAND

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1986

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill: (H.R. 4332) to amend chapter 44 (relating to firearms) of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

Mr. STANGELAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Volkmer substitute because, for me, the right of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms is not an issue of compromise.

Today, approximately 60 million hand guns and rifles are in the possession of lawful Americans. These firearms are used for hunting, collection, protection, and other legitimate purposes.

Many people in my congressional district use firearms for hunting. In fact, I am an avid, lifelong sportsman. Because of this, let me give examples of why the substitute offered by my friend Mr. VOLKMER is superior to the Rodino-Hughes Judiciary Committee bill (H.R. 4332).

Let us suppose one of my fellow Minnesotans decides to do some hunting in Alaska, however, when he arrives his guns have been damaged or lost. Under current law, he can replace his long guns, albeit with considerable difficulty, but any lost or damaged handguns cannot be replaced until he returns home, even though hunting with such firearms is perfectly legal in Alaska and 36 other States. Unlike the Rodino-Hughes bill, the Volkmer substitute ensures that hunters, marksmen or other responsible Americans will, on the spot, be able to replace their guns even if they are not in their home State.

Currently, hunters cannot transport their firearms without fear of violating a hodgepodge of restrictive gun laws at the state and local level. Unfortunately, the lives of many honest citizens have been ruined or disrupted simply because they did not understand that the transport of a firearm, by a law abiding citizen, in certain states or localities is not legal. This should never happen again. The Volkmer substitute remedies this situation, Rodino-Hughes does not.

Several months ago the other body overwhelmingly passed S. 49. The Volkmer substitute largely incorporates the provisions of H.R. 945—companion legislation to S. 49—modified slightly to meet concerns raised by the attorney general and law-enforcement organizations. Because the House leadership initially declined to take action on this measure, I and 217 Members signed the discharge petition to bring the matter before the House. Today, we have the first real opportunity to reform the Gun Control Act of 1968. I believe we should use it to do justice and reverse 18 years of unfair regulation and harassment. Perhaps then Congress and the courts will begin focusing their attention on the criminals who misuse guns, and not abiding, responsible citizens.

If you believe in the Constitutional right of Americans to keep and bear arms then you will vote yes on the Volkmer-Stangeland substitute.

**THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET
PROCEDURES HAVE FAILED
ONCE AGAIN**

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1986

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Congress has failed again to meet its budget deadlines. Today is April 15, the new deadline for House and Senate agreement on a budget resolution, but there is once again no budget resolution to be found.

That's not really surprising though. Last year, Congress didn't reach agreement on the first budget resolution until August 15, 2½ months late. In 1984, we were 4½ months late. In both 1982 and 1983, Congress was 5 weeks late.

According to the Budget Act of 1974, the first budget resolution is supposed to be non-binding. It's the second budget resolution that is supposed to be the binding budget guideline. But our record with the second budget resolution is even more dismal. We haven't passed one in any of the last 4 years!

How ironic that we have set April 15 as the new deadline for a first budget resolution. This is the same date that American taxpayers must meet the deadline to file their income tax returns. Congress has established penalties for taxpayers who don't meet these deadlines. Maybe we need to establish penalties against Congress when we fail to meet our deadlines.

I believe, however, there is another solution to our budgetary difficulties. Let's revamp the current budget process, which has become too cumbersome and just doesn't work. To begin, I propose at least a temporary 2-year budget cycle to allow us to get caught up with budgetary matters. I also propose to abolish

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the House and Senate Budget Committees and the new level of bureaucracy they have established with Congress. In place of the Budget Committees, the Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees would meet early in the process to issue a statement of receipts and outlays that cites estimated revenues for the budget period and a maximum level of expenditures.

New deadlines would be established for authorizing legislation to be brought before Congress prior to the consideration of any appropriations bills. Finally, a 1-month period would be set aside for the sole consideration of the 13 regular appropriations bills.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, it's obvious to me that Congress has failed miserably in meeting its fiscal deadlines and responsibilities. Not only have we failed with regard to the budget process, but more importantly, we have failed to meet our appropriations deadlines. Seven of the 13 regular appropriations deadlines. Seven of the 13 regular appropriations bills were included this year in a massive continuing resolution. Continuing resolutions are a symbol of our failure to discharge our responsibilities, and unfortunately, they have become a rule rather than an exception.

The Library of Congress recently analyzed the record of Congress with regard to appropriations bills since the institution of the 1974 Budget Act. According to the report:

Before the Budget Act it has highly unusual if all 12 months of a fiscal year went by without passing the regular appropriations bills. It is now a common occurrence. From fiscal 1968 through fiscal 1975, only two appropriations bills were under a continuing resolution for an entire fiscal year. From fiscal year 1976 through fiscal 1985, that figure jumped to 27.

Because of our failure to meet budget and appropriations deadlines, our Government was on the verge of fiscal chaos last year. The Secretary of the Treasury even had to resort to the disinvesting of the Social Security trust funds in order to make good on Federal obligations.

We funded the operations of our Government on a week-to-week basis under continuing resolutions for 2½ months. We let important legislation pile up to the point that we had to consider temporary extensions to prevent programs from expiring.

We were asked to vote on major legislation in excess of 1,000 pages with little or no time to review key provisions. This happened with regard to the tax bill, farm bill, and reconciliation bill.

The situation became so bleak that Members were willing to accept the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings concept and turn over to computers our constitutional responsibilities to make important financial decisions for the Federal Government. I opposed Gramm-Rudman because we shouldn't turn our backs on casting the tough votes and making the difficult Federal spending decisions. That's why we have been elected to Congress.

The conduct of Congress the past few months is a sad commentary of how the greatest Nation in the world conducts its fiscal affairs. We need to work together to find the solution to our problems. We need strong and effective leadership to guide us on our course. We need to resist gimmickry and return to procedures that will enable Congress to make

the tough decisions we're charged with making in a timely fashion.

Above all else, we need to make a commitment to quit wasting time and to fulfill the responsibilities of governing our Nation. Since we reconvened here January 21 for the second session of the 99th Congress, the House has met to conduct official business on only 29 of a possible 59 days. On eight other days, the House convened in pro forma session or conducted no legislative business.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can move forward by working together to discharge our duties in a responsible and timely fashion. As a cornerstone of this effort, I look forward to working with my colleagues to craft a new, streamlined budget process that will get us back on track in making the important funding decisions so we can do our job to reduce Federal deficits and ensure a strong and thriving national economy.

A CONSTITUENT RESPONSE

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1986

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, recently, there has been a great deal of discussion in the House about public opinion toward how to best to achieve peace in Central America and to reduce nuclear proliferation. And, later this week, the House will, once again, meet to make key policy decisions on these matters.

Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from a distinguished constituent of mine, Allan J. Bing, a retired lecturer of philosophy at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, which raises a number of compelling points with respect to these issues. And, while the jury may still be out as to overall public opinion, Mr. Bing's letter is just one example of how a majority of the residents of the 21st District of Ohio view U.S. policy in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, I submit his letter to be inserted into the RECORD and I commend it to the attention of my colleagues:

MARCH 28, 1986.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN STOKES: I must vehemently protest against the underground nuclear bomb explosion which took place in the Nevada desert on Mar. 22. As you must know, the bomb was ten (10) times as powerful as the one exploded at Hiroshima, and shook all the major buildings in Reno, seventy miles away.

I can only regard this explosion as a completely irrational defiance of the Soviets, especially in view of the Moratorium on nuclear explosions which the Kremlin proposed, and itself rigidly adhered to, since last July 30. Most peace groups, both in Cleveland and in Washington, regarded this proposed moratorium on testing as the most significant breakthrough on the issue of nuclear disarmament, since the two superpowers began to build their arsenals. Pres. Reagan must be off his nut to order this explosion. As Nina McLellan, head of the Cleveland chapter of the Sierra Club, said, as quoted by the Cleveland Plain Dealer on March 23: "The reason that Pres. Reagan refuses to negotiate a test ban is that he wants to test and build new, advanced nuclear weapons. These weapons represent a significant change in nuclear technology and are a dangerous escalation toward nuclear war. A test ban could easily be verified."

On the somewhat related issue of the question of aid to the Contras in Nicaragua, I refer you to the lead article in the current issue (March 31) of *Time Magazine*. After attempting to regard the Sandinistas in a more reasonable and human light than the President has, the writer concludes: "In fact, if the peril posed by the Sandinistas were as great as the President's political rhetoric suggest, he would be irresponsible not to send in American troops."

This President needs to have his head examined. Please personally see to it that his irrationality and stupidity are tightly contained.

Very truly yours,

ALLAN J. BING.

APRIL IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

HON. GLENN M. ANDERSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1986

Mr. ANDERSON. Mr. Speaker, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has designated this month, and every April thereafter, as "Month of the Military Child." I would like to join military families throughout the world in recognizing the important role our youth play in the development of this great land of ours.

This year's theme has been appropriately titled, "Children and Youth: Our Investment in the Future."

In the March 28, 1986, edition of *Astro News*, Lt. Gen. Forrest S. McCartney, Space Division Commander at Los Angeles AFS, has written an excellent editorial on the significance and importance of recognizing the many contributions of military children. This article is as follows:

[From the *Astro News*, March 28, 1986]

COMMANDER SALUTES YOUTH

(By Lt. Gen. Forrest S. McCartney)

April 1986—and every April thereafter—has been designated the "Month of the Military Child" by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to recognize the important role that our youth and their activities play in our lives.

The theme this year, "Children and Youth: Our Investment in the Future," appropriately reflects the effort we have placed in our programs which care for and nurture our young family members.

These programs include the Fort MacArthur Youth Center, the Youth Elite Society, and the station's child care program.

The center is an outstanding source for a wide variety of activities which help develop social and intellectual values. It also provides an outstanding perspective of Air Force life for high school-age participants who aspire toward military careers.

The Youth Elite society, which has benefited our children for four years, holds activities which set social, intellectual and spiritual standards as guidelines for growth.

The society's field trips help its members widen their horizons, and its service projects help teach them how to set example and meet goals. The society also recognizes those who excel in their scholastic and extracurricular activities.

The child care center, when completed later this year, will provide much-needed day-time supervision of our infant children and thus ease their parents' concerns for adequate care.